

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A self-contained software package adapted to be
2 automatically processed within a browser environment,
3 comprising:
4 a manifest containing meta-data about said self-contained
5 software package; and
6 at least one reference to an initial content source, said
7 initial content source including instructions related to a particular
8 intended functionality,
9 whereby said manifest and said at least one reference to
10 said initial content source are automatically received by and
11 processed within a network client environment, said initial content
12 source controlling said network client environment in accordance
13 with said instructions to achieve said particular intended
14 functionality.
- 1 2. The self-contained software package according to claim 1,
2 wherein said initial content source is an HTML file
3 containing content layout instructions.
- 1 3. The self-contained software package according to claim 1,
2 wherein said content source is an executable file containing
3 program execution instructions.
- 1 4. The self-contained software package according to claim 3,
2 wherein said executable file is a JavaScript file.
- 1 5. The self-contained software package according to claim 1,
2 wherein said manifest and said at least one reference to an
3 initial content source are distributed via a network.

1 6. The self-contained software package according to claim 1,
2 wherein said manifest and said at least one reference to an
3 initial content source are distributed via a computer
4 readable medium.

1 8. The self-contained software package according to claim 1,
2 wherein said manifest and said initial content source are
3 contained within said self-contained software package.

1 10. The self-contained software package according to claim 1,
2 wherein said particular functionality corresponds to a
3 particular world wide web site.

1 11. The self-contained software package according to claim 1,
2 wherein said particular functionality corresponds to a
3 particular open-standards application.

12. A web browser adapted to receive and process a self-contained software package, comprising:

an input module inputting a manifest containing meta data about said self-contained software package, and at least one reference to an initial content source, said initial content source including instructions related to a particular intended functionality, whereby said manifest and said at least one reference to said initial content source are automatically received by and

21. A method for generating and automatically processing a self-contained software package within a browser environment, comprising the following steps:

- generating a manifest containing meta-data about said self-contained software package;
- generating at least one reference to an initial content source, said initial content source including instructions related to a particular intended functionality;
- automatically receiving said manifest, said at least one reference, and said initial content source; and
- automatically processing said manifest, said at least one reference, and said initial content within said browser environment, said initial content source controlling said browser environment in accordance with said instructions to achieve said particular intended functionality.

1 23. The method according to claim 21, wherein said content
2 source is an executable file containing program execution
3 instructions.

1 25. The method according to claim 22, wherein said executable
2 file includes JAVAScript instructions.

1 26. The method according to claim 21, wherein said manifest
2 and said at least one reference to a content source are
3 configured to be distributed via a network.

1 27. The method according to claim 21, wherein said manifest
2 and said at least one reference to an initial content source
3 are configured to be distributed via a computer readable
4 medium.

1 28. The method according to claim 27, wherein said computer
2 readable medium is a compact disc containing digitally
3 recorded information.

1 29. The method according to claim 21, wherein said manifest
2 and said initial content source are contained within said
3 self-contained software package.

1 30. A method of using a web browser, comprising the following
2 steps:
3 receiving a manifest containing meta-data about a self-
4 contained software package;
5 receiving at least one reference to an initial content source,
6 said initial content source including instructions related to a
7 particular intended functionality; and
8 automatically processing said manifest, said at least one
9 reference, and said initial content within a web browser
10 environment, said initial content source controlling said browser
11 environment in accordance with said instructions to achieve said
12 particular intended functionality.

1 31. The method according to claim 30, wherein said initial
2 content source includes HTML content to be automatically
3 manifested by said web browser.

1 32. The method according to claim 30, wherein said particular
2 functionality corresponds to web site content normally and

